

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Frequently Asked Questions about the  
Technical Assistance Plan Program  
TVA Kingston Fossil Fuel Plant Release Site**

***What is the Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) program?***

Through the TAP program, funding is provided to a qualified community group: (1) to hire a technical advisor(s) who can help group members understand site cleanup issues and (2) to enable the group to share this information with others in the community.

***How much assistance is provided for a technical advisor's services?***

Assistance of up to \$50,000 may be available. The majority of the assistance should be used to pay for the technical advisor's services. Up to \$1,000 may be used for one-time health and safety training to give the technical advisor access to the site. No more than one community group will be selected to be a TAP recipient at a site at a time.

***Can my group receive TAP assistance?***

Your group may qualify for TAP assistance if: (1) your members are people affected by the site and (2) you can demonstrate the ability to adequately and responsibly manage TAP responsibilities. A group may not be:

- A potentially responsible party (PRP) for the site, represent a PRP, or receive money or services from a PRP.
- Affiliated with a national organization.
- An academic institution (e.g., colleges, universities, high schools).
- A political subdivision (e.g., a township or municipality).
- A tribal government.
- Established or sustained by any of the entities listed above or have members that represent any of the entities listed above.

***What types of service can a technical advisor provide?***

A technical advisor can help the community better understand and be aware of information, options and decisions to be made in cleaning up the site. A technical advisor may:

- Review site investigation data and preliminary site assessments.
- Participate in community meetings to help interpret technical information.
- Visit the site to observe progress and provide technical updates to the group.
- Interpret information on environmental and public health hazards at the site.
- Communicate with the local community through newsletters, community meetings or similar activities to improve understanding of conditions and activities at the site.

***Is there anything the TAP cannot be used for?***

TAP assistance cannot be used for these, and possibly additional, purposes:

- Developing new information (e.g., conducting testing and monitoring activities).
- Activities related to lawsuits or other legal actions, or for attorneys' fees.
- Group members' travel or tuition/training expenses.
- Political activity and lobbying.
- Group activities such as parties and celebrations.
- Reopening or challenging final EPA decisions.

A community group will not be reimbursed for these costs, and EPA may cancel TAP assistance if a community group misuses TAP funds.

***What are my group's responsibilities if we are selected to receive TAP assistance?***

If your group receives TAP assistance at the TVA Kingston site, some of the activities your group will be responsible for include:

- Soliciting proposals from potential technical advisors.
- Entering into agreements with TVA and the technical advisor.
- Managing the technical advisor's activities and invoices.
- Working out an invoicing and expenses arrangement with TVA.
- Providing quarterly reports on project activities.
- Sharing community concerns and questions with EPA and the PRP.
- Keeping the community informed about the technical advisor's work.

***How do I apply to receive TAP assistance?***

To apply for TAP assistance, a community group must:

- 1) Send EPA a letter of interest (LOI) with the group name, the site name, and the name, address, and daytime telephone number of a contact person. (Note: Once EPA receives a LOI from an interested community group, the Agency will publish a notice in a local paper notifying other interested groups that they have 30 days to submit their own LOI.)
- 2) Complete and submit a TAP application within approximately 30 days. The application will include detailed information about the group and its plans to work with a technical advisor(s) and the community.

***How is a group selected?***

EPA evaluates each application and considers, for example, whether the group represents those most affected by the site and has a system for managing and tracking TAP expenses. EPA also evaluates the group's plans to work with a technical advisor and to educate others in the community. The group is notified about EPA's decision within 30 days of submitting its application.

